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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/849,856	05/04/2001	Masafumi Takiguchi	450100-03207	9840
20999	7590	06/09/2005	EXAMINER	
FROMMERM LAWRENCE & HAUG 745 FIFTH AVENUE- 10TH FL. NEW YORK, NY 10151			TRAN, THAI Q	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2616	

DATE MAILED: 06/09/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/849,856	TAKIGUCHI ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thai Tran	2616	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11; 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 04 May 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is longer than 150 words.

Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-2, 4, and 6-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Seki et al (US 5,450,253).

Regarding claim 1, Seki et al discloses a playback apparatus for extracting a playback signal from a recording medium without performing tracking control (Fig. 4 and col. 3, lines 21-29), said playback apparatus comprising:

an adaptive equalizing circuit (filter 14 of Fig. 4, col. 5, lines 31-33) for performing equalization of said playback signal; and

detection means (an envelope detector 19 of Fig. 4, from col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 13) for determining an envelope value of said playback signal, wherein said adaptive equalizing circuit is controlled in accordance with an envelope value from said detection means.

Regarding claim 2, Seki et al also discloses the claimed wherein said adaptive equalizing circuit (Fig. 2) comprises:

a plurality of unit delay means (delay elements 21a, 21b, 21c, and 21d of Fig. 2, col. 6, lines 42-45) for delaying said playback signal in sequence;

a plurality of weighting means (coefficient multipliers 22a, 22b, 22c, 22d, and 22e of Fig. 2, col. 6, lines 45-49) for performing weighting on each of the delay signals; and

additional means (adder 23a of Fig. 2, col. 6, lines 49-56) for adding together the weighted signals, and

wherein each of the weighting signals of said plurality of weighting means is changed in accordance with said playback signal, and when the envelope value of said playback signal is more than or equal to a predetermined value, the coefficients in said weighting means are changed (an envelope detector 19 of Fig. 4, from col. 8, line 59 to col. 9, line 13).

Claim 4 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 2 above.

Method claims 6-7 are rejected for the same reasons as discussed in apparatus claims 1-2 above.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

7. Claims 3, 5, and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Seki et al (US 5,450,253) in view of Shim et al (US 6,307,822 B1).

Regarding claim 3, Seki et al discloses all the claimed limitations as discussed in claims 1-2 above except for providing phase-locked loop means for forming a signal locked to an arbitrary phase of said playback signal, wherein when phase lock has been

performed by said phase-locked loop means, the coefficients in said weighting means are changed.

Shim et al teaches that the waveform equalizer 12 and the Viterbi decoder 13 are controlled by the phase locked loop 15 so that the damaged signal reproduced from the recording medium can be restored (col. 1, lines 17-38).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to incorporate the PLL as taught by Shim et al into Seki et al's system in order to increase the quality of the reproduced video signal by restoring the damaged reproduced video signal.

Claim 5 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in claim 3 above.

Method claim 8 is rejected for the same reasons as discussed in apparatus claim 3 above.

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

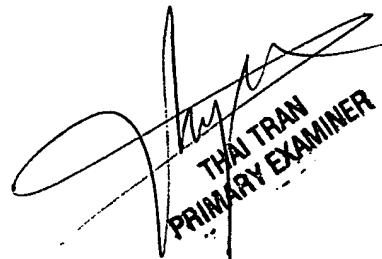
The cited references relate to adaptive equalizer.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thai Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-7382. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon. to Friday, 8:00 AM to 5:30 PM.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

TTQ



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "THAI TRAN". To the right of the signature, the text "PRIMARY EXAMINER" is printed vertically.